

Jeff Maxwell House
1109 W. Whitner Street and Maxwell Avenue
Anderson
Anderson County
South Carolina

HABS No. SC-322

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
801 - 19th Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.

JEFF MAXWELL HOUSE

Location: 1109 W. Whitner Street at Maxwell Avenue, Anderson,
Anderson County, South Carolina.

Present Owner: Demolished in the fall of 1962.

Statement of
Significance: A large, well-constructed frame house with three-
stage Italianate tower, bracketed cornice, and
decorative wooden trim.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners (chain of title): The house was built by Jeff Maxwell. In 1883 it was purchased by the Farmer family. It was retained in that family and in recent years was owned by Mrs. Albert Farmer [Billie J. Cooley, "A Survey of Anderson, South Carolina." (An unpublished student report written for Prof. Coledge of Clemson College, Clemson, S.C., n.d.)].
2. Date of erection: 1876.
3. Architect: Mr. Maxwell supposedly secured a New York architect to draw the plans for this house [ibid.].
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: Before the house was completed, it burned. Rebuilding began immediately after the fire [ibid.].

B. Bibliography:

Cooley, Billie J. "A Survey of Anderson, South Carolina."
An unpublished student report written for Prof.
Coledge of Clemson College, Clemson, S.C., n.d.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A representative house of the 1870's.
2. Condition of fabric: Demolished.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Number of stories: Two.
2. Layout, shape: Irregular, with tower.
3. Foundations: Low.
4. Wall construction, finish, and color: Wood frame, clapboards.
5. Porches: There is a three-bay one-story porch extending across the east side of the house. Its central bay projects slightly beyond the others. A porch extends across the west side and two bays of the north front. A shallow porch of one bay with a balustraded deck shelters the entrance. The details of these porches are similar: thin coupled columns shaped like the balusters of a stair rail, low segmental arches, and cornice fascia with pendant ornament.
6. Chimneys: Two interior chimneys with ornamental corbeled caps.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways: The main entrance, located on the north side at the base of the tower, has a segmental-arched opening. Superimposed on this opening are four pilasters carrying brackets and a cornice. In the center is a double glazed door. Between the outer pilasters are sidelights, and above the door is a glazed transom. A flight of five steps leads up to the entrance. The house has four secondary entrances.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Double-hung sash, some with two lights over two lights, some with one light over one light, plain trim, louvered shutters. Above the entrance is a pair of semicircular-arched windows. Above these is a large hood supported on brackets which has a cornice fascia with pendant ornaments. On each side of the third stage of the tower is a pair of arched windows.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Roofs are of low pitch, gabled and hipped, covered with standing-seam sheet metal.
 - b. Cornice: The house cornice is moulded and has small brackets.

- c. Towers: A square tower located in a re-entrant angle near the center of the north front has a bracketed cornice crowning its second story. Above this is a smaller third story crowned by a similar cornice. There is a balustrade on the north side of the tower at the second floor level. The smaller third stage of the tower is surrounded by a balustrade.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Stairways: The main interior stairway is made of "pickled pine" /Billie J. Cooley, "A Survey of Anderson, South Cholina." (An unpublished student report written for Prof. Coledge of Clemson College, Clemson, S.C., n.d.)/.

D. Site and Surroundings:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faced north, on a five-acre lot.
2. Landscaping and walks, enclosures: Informal lawn, trees and shrubs, stone fence on street side, circular side drive. The walk approaching the main entrance was partially paved with cast iron spiral stairway treads from original Court House of Anderson, S.C.

Prepared by Harley J. McKee
National Park Service
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